



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARDS MARLIN WEED AND SEED SITE \$175,000 GRANT

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that the Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office has awarded the South Marlin Weed and Seed site a \$175,000 grant for the next fiscal year to fight drug and violent crime plus improve the quality of life throughout the community. The announcement was made at the Booker T. Washington Resource Center—site of the project's newly refurbished "Safe Haven"—located in the "heart" of the South Marlin Weed and Seed area.

Sutton noted that South Marlin was one of 32 new Weed and Seed sites chosen in 20 states and the District of Columbia to receive grant funding. The funding is administered by the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

"I want to congratulate the South Marlin Weed and Seed steering committee and the agencies they represent for banding together to make South Marlin safer for the good people who live here," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "For over three years, this committee never gave up, never lost sight of this wonderful opportunity. Today, their hard work and commitment has paid off."

The South Marlin Weed and Seed steering committee is made up of neighborhood citizens and representatives from the City of Marlin, Falls County, local faith-based organizations and business community, Texas Youth Commission, Texas Department of Criminal Justice—Hobby Unit, Booker T. Washington Resource Center, Marlin Independent School District, Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas.

The Weed and Seed program is a strategy to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Its based on a two-pronged approach. First, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate to "weed out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse. Second, "seed" the target area with human services encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization.

The South Marlin Weed and Seed site encompasses the area bordered on the North by Live Oak street, on the West by Williams Street, on the South by Roosevelt Avenue and on the East by Phillip, Jordan and Parker Streets.

In May, the South Marlin Weed and Seed steering committee applied for the federal grant. Under the Weed and Seed program, the site is expected to receive \$575,000 over the next three years. According to the program guidelines, 50% of the funding has to be spent on fighting crime and the remaining 50% must be spent on prevention, intervention and treatment programs plus neighborhood restoration projects.

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